



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 22, 2014

Agenda Item #8H

Agency: City of Belmont

Staff Contact: Captain Tony Psaila, Police Department, 650-595-7402, tonyp@belmont.gov

Agenda Title: Resolution of the City Council authorizing the purchase of fifteen (15) AXON Flex Camera Video Recorder systems for the Belmont Police Department, and enter into an agreement for maintenance and support with TASER International, Inc.

Agenda Action: Resolution

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the purchase of fifteen (15) AXON Flex Camera Video Recorder systems for the Belmont Police Department, and enter into an agreement for maintenance and support with TASER International, Inc.

Background

In May of 2014, Council authorized purchasing AXON Flex body worn cameras for the Belmont Police Department. Fifteen (15) video cameras and associated hardware, software and video storage has already been purchased, and we are now ready to move forward and purchase the second half of the cameras, for a total of thirty (30) video camera systems. Staff is convinced that these body worn cameras are a very useful tool for Belmont Police Officers, and we recommend moving forward with the second phase of this purchase.

Analysis

Extensive research began over a year ago when the Belmont Police Department Administrative staff, in collaboration with Belmont Information Technology personnel, began researching the various video systems available. After weighing the options, the Taser AXON Flex body worn camera system was selected as the preferred video system for the Belmont Police Department. This conclusion was reached because the AXON Flex system appears to be the most technologically advanced, reliable and user friendly system among those similar systems available.

The AXON Flex video system offers three options which none of the other systems available offer. First, the AXON Flex is the only officer worn body camera that offers a 30 second pre-event recording loop which enables the camera to capture 30 seconds of video prior to the officer activating the system. This option is highly desirable because this allows officers to capture video, which in some cases, may be crucial evidence in a case. Second, the AXON Flex system offers a server-connected download/recharge cradle station that allows officers to place the camera in a cradle and the system automatically and securely downloads video, while at the same time charges the camera. All other vendor products require manual downloading and manual data entry for documentation and instructional purposes, which requires officers to spend copious amounts of time (approximately 20 to 45 minutes per officer) at the end of their shift downloading data. Finally, the AXON Flex is also the sole system that permits blue-tooth remote viewing via a smart phone type device. This connection permits data entry by

the officer at the conclusion of each event versus all other systems requiring data entry at the end of the officer's shift. Additionally, this option allows officers to view video in a "real time" manner, so that the camera may be placed in dangerous or difficult areas (around blind corners, over fences, in attic and crawl spaces, etc.) in order to give officers the ability to search for suspects or evidence in a safer manner.

Currently, Taser International is the sole manufacturer and distributor of the Taser AXON Flex body worn camera system to law enforcement agencies.

Fifteen (15) video cameras and associated hardware, software and video storage is being purchased in each phase for a total of thirty (30) video camera systems. Each phase also includes software licenses for administration of the Taser system. The below tables detail one-time and ongoing expenses associated with each phase. This final purchase will have our officer worn video program fully implemented, and will allow for each officer to be assigned a camera.

Annual Cost – Taser Cameras & Video Storage					
Item	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	Total
Cameras	\$7,499.25	\$7,499.25	---	---	\$14,998.50
Storage	\$847.50	\$828.00	\$1,972.50	\$2,197.50	\$5,845.50
Hardware	\$2,990.00	\$4,485.00	---	---	\$7,475.00
Licensing	\$5,604.00	\$4,125.00	\$10,104.00	\$10,104.00	\$29,937.00
Total	\$16,940.75	\$13,947.25	\$12,076.50	\$12,301.50	\$55,266.00
*Plus tax and shipping for cameras and hardware.					

The recommended resolution covers the costs associated with the purchase of the second half of the AXON Flex cameras (including associated hardware and software), as well as the continuing licensing and storage fees. The resolution also authorizes the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Taser International, Inc. for the annual maintenance and support of the Police Department's Axon Flex Camera Video Recorder System.

Alternatives

1. Provide alternate direction.
2. Take no action.

Attachments

A. Resolution

Fiscal Impact

- ☐ No Impact/Not Applicable
☒ Funding Source Confirmed: Acct# 101-2-601-8613

Source:

- ☐ Council
- ☒ Staff
- ☐ Citizen Initiated
- ☐ Other*

Purpose:

- ☐ Statutory/Contractual Requirement
- ☐ Council Vision/Priority
- ☒ Discretionary Action
- ☐ Plan Implementation*

Public Outreach:

- ☒ Posting of Agenda
- ☐ Other*

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF FIFTEEN (15) AXON FLEX CAMERA VIDEO RECORDER SYSTEMS FOR THE BELMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT WITH TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

WHEREAS, Law enforcement agencies throughout the country are using various types of video recording systems to document interactions between law enforcement officers and citizens; and,

WHEREAS, utilizing an officer worn video camera system would be beneficial not only to the Belmont Police Department, but to the City of Belmont and Community as well and the AXON Flex video system offers three options which none of the other systems available offer; and,

WHEREAS, the cost for the first four years shall be \$55,266.00, with future costs to be negotiated.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Belmont is authorized to purchase fifteen (15) AXON Flex Camera Video Recorder systems for the Belmont Police Department, from TASER International, Inc., for an initial amount not to exceed \$13,947.25; and the City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement with Taser International, Inc. for the annual maintenance and support of the Police Department's Axon Flex Camera Video Recorder System. This authorization is limited to the amount of available funds appropriated within a fiscal year budget for that purpose.

* * *

ADOPTED July 22, 2014, by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney